

STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT

Scott Press Release

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SEN. SCOTT CALLS FOR FURTHER TESTING OF MASTER METALS CONTAMINATION SITE

Highland Park Democrat Praises Cleanup Effort But Says Soil Testing Must Be Expanded

LANSING – State Senator Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) called today for further lead-laced soil testing in homes near the abandoned Master Metals lead-smelting plant in northeast Detroit. While praising the ongoing effort to clean up the contamination site, Senator Scott said the Environmental Protection Agency was unwise to limit its lead contamination testing to homes primarily northeast of the plant.

“Residents in the affected neighborhood have complained for years of health-related problems,” Senator Scott said. “While removing soil that has already been identified as being contaminated is a good start, we need to run additional tests to make sure the problem isn’t much bigger than originally believed.”

The EPA did intensive testing only in the neighborhood northeast of the lead-smelting plant because that is the area most frequently downwind of the plant. However, residents throughout the neighborhood claim their property has been affected too and want testing done.

“While I respect what the EPA is attempting to accomplish, I feel we have an obligation to the residents of this neighborhood to make absolutely sure we have found all of the contamination,”

Senator Scott said. “It was only four years ago that the EPA was telling us that there was no lead contamination in the neighborhood.”

Senator Scott, who is sponsoring part of a package of bills designed to tackle the threat of lead poisoning in Michigan, said lead levels at the site have been found to be more than five times the level considered a risk to children.

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